GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
DEFENCE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2889
ANSWERED ON:07.12.2000
SAFETY MEASURES IN MIGS FOR PILOTS
RAMDAS ATHAWALE

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether MIG-21 aircraft is not equipped with adequate safety measures for pilots as are available in Mirage and Jaguar;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether lack of adequate safety measures for pilots in MIG-21 aircraft is resulting in rapid increase in number of accidents of this aircraft; and

(d) if so, the steps being taken or proposed to be taken for providing adequate safety measures for pilots in MIG- 21?

Answer

MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES)

(a) to (c): Sir, as regards safety measures for Pilots, the MIG-21 aircraft is also equipped like the Mirageand Jaguar aircraft in that all these aircrafts have equally capable ejection seats. However, the technology level of MIG-21aircraft is of 1960's vintage, whereas Mirage and Jaguar aircrafts are based on modern technology. MIG-21 aircraft has larger fleet than that of Mirage and Jaguar aircrafts and accordingly, their utilisation rate is also higher, exposing them to greater probability for accidents. Thus, accidents in MIG aircrafts are not due to lack of safety measures for Pilots.

(d) Safety measures, being the same, no specific steps are being taken in this regard. However, it has been planned to upgrade a major portion of the fleet with modern technology avionics to aid the pilot.